

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning the Form PTO-1449 filed with the Application, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Drawings:

Applicant concurrently submits herewith a Submission of Drawings, to replace the drawings filed with the above application. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner review and approve the submitted drawings.

Claim Objections:

The Examiner has objected to claims 2-3, 10, 13-14 and 21. As an initial matter, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 10 and 21 are clear as they are claimed. Each of these claims indicate that at least one of two elements have the claimed feature. Applicant submits that these claims are written in accordance with standard claim drafting practice and hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above objection to these claims.

With regard to claims 3 and 13-14, Applicant has amended these claims as shown in the attached Appendix to ensure that these claims are clear. Applicant submits that these claim amendments adequately address the Examiner's concerns and make these claims clear, and hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above objection of claims 3 and 13-14.

Further, Applicant notes that the above referenced amendments to claims 3 and 13-14 is made to merely clarify the claimed invention, and is not intended to narrow the original scope or spirit of the claims in any way.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-24 are all the claims pending in the application, and currently all of the pending claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection - Claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-24:

Claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,321,013 to Hardwick III et al. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Hardwick discloses a fiber optic cable **118d** having a plurality of optical fiber ribbon modules **30** which are positioned radially around a central member **120d**. *See* Figure 26, for example. Applicant notes that although Hardwick appears to disclose having the modules **30** making contact with the central member **120d**, Hardwick fails to disclose, in any way, that the modules **30** are bonded to the central member **120d**, as claimed in the present invention. *See* claims 1, 12 and 23. It is for at least this reason, that Applicant submits that Hardwick fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as set forth in claims 1, 12 and 23.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Hardwick fails to disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature of the present invention, as set forth in claims 1, 12 and 23, and hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of the claims 1, 12 and 23. Further, as claims 2-5, 7-11, 13-16, 18-22 and 24 depend on claims 1, 12, and 23, respectively, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependency.

With regard to claims 2-5, 7-11, 13-16, 18-22 and 24, Applicant notes that the fact that there is no individual argument made with regard to these claims is in no way an admission that the claimed features set forth in these claims is disclosed, taught or suggested in the Hardwick reference.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 6 and 17:

Claims 6 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardwick in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,970,196 to Greveling et al. However, since claims 6 and 17 depend on claims 1 and 12, respectively, and because Greveling fails to cure the deficient teachings of Hardwick with respect to these claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6 and 17 are allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

Again, with regard to claims 6 and 17, Applicant notes that the fact that there is no individual argument made with regard to these claims is in no way an admission that the claimed features set forth in these claims is disclosed, taught or suggested in the Hardwick or Greveling references.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/897,386

Our Ref.: A7977
Art Unit: 2839

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A multi axis fiber optic ribbon, comprising:

a central portion; and

a plurality of removable extensions ~~secured~~ bonded to and extending from said central portion, at least one of said extensions containing at least one optical fiber;

wherein at least one of said extensions extends from said central portion along an axis different from at least one other extension.

3. (Amended) The multi axis fiber optic ribbon according to claim 2, wherein said at ~~least one~~ central portion and said plurality of extensions are made from the same fiber optic ribbon matrix material.

12. (Amended) A ribbon for optical fibers, comprising:

a central core;

a plurality of extensions situated radially around said central core, each extension having two ends, one end removably ~~attached~~ bonded to said central core, and the second end extending outward from said core;

wherein at least one of said extensions contains one or more optical fibers.

13. (Amended) The multi axis fiber optic ribbon according to claim 12, wherein at least one of said central core and said plurality of extensions are made from a fiber optic ribbon matrix material, or an over-coated, dissimilar strength member.

14. (Amended) The multi axis fiber optic ribbon according to claim 13, wherein said ~~at least one~~ central core and said plurality of extensions are made from the same fiber optic ribbon matrix material.

23. (Amended) A fiber optic cable; comprising:
an outer jacket; and
a plurality of multi axis ribbons, said multi axis ribbons comprising:
a central core;
a plurality of extensions situated radially around said central core, each extension having two ends, one end removably ~~attached~~ bonded to said central core, and the second end extending outward from said core;
wherein at least one of said extensions contains one or more optical fibers.

Claims 25-28 are added as new claims.